

GREENBRIER GRAPEVINE

Newsletter

May 1, 2005

PTA Executive Board: Beth Sanderson and Jayne Angle-**Co-Presidents**; Chris Bennett-**Treasurer**; Cori Rohrer-**Secretary**; Judy Fishkin, Tania Holmes, Jeanine Horst, and Karen Seabright-**Co-Hospitality VPs**; Stephanie Saunders-**Membership VP**; Roxanne Fritz-**Volunteer Coordinator**; Beth Bell-**Beautification**; Tracy Grove-**CAC Chairperson**



Dear Parents:

This has certainly been an exciting school year here at Greenbrier-the second year of our Spanish Signature Program and the meeting of new community friends. We are very grateful to everyone who made our new program a reality. Our students are the beneficiaries of your vision, expertise, and caring.

During the next month, we will be having many visitors to the building for various school functions. We ask that you continue to support us in our efforts keep our students safe by always checking in at our school office when you are visiting us. Talk to your children and remind them of basic rules to ensure their safety. Also, please be patient when we call you to verify how your child is to go home and with whom. Remember, unless we have a note, your child will go home as usual. Also, if you are going to pick up your child at the rear of the school in the afternoon, please be advised that students are on the back pavement until 2:25pm. Safety cones will be posted until that time.



As always, please note all the important dates listed on our monthly calendar for the months of May/June.

We at Greenbrier rely heavily on our parents as partners in education. You have been truly wonderful during the year in all that you have done to enrich the learning environment at Greenbrier. As a principal, I am truly appreciative and thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Elaine M. Semler

Tutors

Parents, if you are in need of a tutor for your child for the summer, please let me know. Teachers have expressed an interest in providing this service either for a few weeks or for long term additional help.

Lunch Charges

May 25th will be the last day for lunch charges in our school cafeteria so that we may clear our financial books for next year. Please also help us by taking care of any existing charges by that date.



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Greenbrier Elementary School
 21222 San Mar Road, Boonsboro, MD 21713
 301-766-8170 (Office) 301-766-8172 (Health Office)



Dates To Remember

- May 3rd - 5th grade Panorama-Life Touch pictures at 10:30am
- May 4th - Bedford Village trip for 5th graders 8:00am-4:00pm
PTA meeting-6:15pm
- May 5th - Cinco de Mayo
- May 6th - Multicultural Assembly-PTA
- May 9th-13th - Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 10th - CAC Meeting 6:30pm
5th grade orientation 8:45am-11:00am @ BMS
3rd grade trip to the 40 West Landfill and Rural Heritage Museum
- May 11th - School Nurse Day
Kindergarten Registration 8:30am-2:30pm
- May 12th - Kindergarten Leggett Farm trip AM Class 8:10am-10:15am PM Class 12:05pm-2:15pm
- May 13th - PTA Talent Show
- May 18th - 4th grade Annapolis trip 7:00am-4:30pm
- May 19th - Muffins for Moms 7:00am-7:45am
- May 23rd - Parent Involvement Book Swap
- May 25th - Enrichment Fair 8:30am-10:00am
- May 26th - 4th grade symphony 9:30am
- May 27th - 2nd grade trip to Hager House
Final Rocketeer Celebration 1:00pm-2:00pm
- May 30th - NO SCHOOL
- June 2nd - PTA End-of-Year Picnic
- June 3rd - 5th grade graduation 11:00am
- June 6th - Officer Phil for grades 3 & 4 12:45pm
Field Day
- June 7th - 2 1/2 hour early dismissal - *Last Day* of school!

Remember Student Banking every Friday morning; the last day for banking is June 3rd
The School Store is open on Tue. & Thurs. 7:30am-8:00am; the last day for the school store is May 26th

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From the Secretary's Desk



I must have blinked and missed April altogether because as I look back it just seems to be a blur!!! We are very busy arranging the end of the year activities (which means May will probably go by even more quickly than April did). You should be expecting a lot of information to come home these last weeks of school. Be sure to put the **Dates to Remember** section of your Newsletter somewhere you can check to keep up with all the fun things going on this month. We will NOT be publishing a June Newsletter since there aren't many school days in June. This will be our final Newsletter of the school year. With that said, I would like to especially thank Mrs. Seabright, as well as all the many, many people that have helped make the Newsletter such a success this year.

This final Newsletter of the year also brings an end to my assignment at Greenbrier Elementary School. May 1st, I will assume my new position in the Medical Billing Office. I cannot leave without saying a huge **THANK YOU** to all the wonderful students, parents and staff at Greenbrier Elementary who welcomed me and accepted me into the Greenbrier Family. I will truly miss your smiling faces and will have many fond memories of my short time here. Good luck to all of you and please have a wonderful, safe summer.

Thanks for the memories,
Lois Richards

Human beings, by changing the inner attitudes of their mind, can change the outer aspects of their lives. William James (1842-1910)

1st Grade News

The end of the year is fast approaching! We are working on counting change to second grade students are to count \$1.00 (in grade students are required money to \$10.00!) They are



also adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers, some with regrouping. This is challenging if one relies on fingers to figure out the answers to the math facts. Please encourage your child to memorize their math facts through twenty.

Thank you so much for all your help and support this year! See attached skill sheet for second grade. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

- Mrs. Drury
- Mrs. Shriver

2nd Grade News

It is hard to believe that we are starting our last full month of school. Looking back to the start of school, we can now compare and notice so many wonderful changes in our 2nd graders. We can also see much growth and success. Observing the students during the CTBS testing, we notice many conscientious workers. We hope this good school habit will continue until the end of school.



In Reading this month, we will be finishing our last theme and then working on teacher-directed themes and literature of various genre. Writing pieces will

also support the reading materials as we identify the author's viewpoint, evaluate the author's writing, and make judgments about characters' actions.

In Math, please continue to work on basic facts as we continue to teach addition and subtraction with and without regrouping. We will also emphasize such skills as multiplication and counting money. We will touch on probability and early division. Second graders love to move on to multiplication; however it is very important for them to know basic addition and subtraction facts first. Please continue to practice these facts.

In Science, we will be talking about plants and animals. In Social Studies, we will be finishing our unit on Hagerstown, talking about Germany, and discussing the Memorial Day holiday.

Once again, thank you for your continued support with homework and volunteer time.

- Mrs. Deener
- Mrs. Kline
- Mrs. Kresge

3rd Grade News

Amazingly, our time with your wonderful children has almost past. We first want to take the time to thank you for your support throughout this busy year. Your child has grown so much this year and we are proud of each of them.

As summer approaches, please plan to continue reading for at least 15 minutes a

night. A weekly trip to the public library can be a great family time and allow you to have many wonderful



books to explore together. We also will be sending home a packet of ideas for practicing math facts, writing and reading. A little practice this summer will allow you to jump into fourth grade ready to go!!

We are ending the year with our field trip to the Rural Heritage Museum and Forty West Landfill. This will bring many of the things discussed in a science and social studies to reality for the students. Thank you to those that are able to help chaperone our trip.

Language Arts will end with a unit on problem solvers. Each character has some unique problems that they need to solve. The first story is written in both Spanish and English and is a nice tie to our Cinco de Mayo celebration. Again thank you for the donations that made the celebration a great event for our students.

Math will wrap up with liquid measurement and weight measurement. This is a great topic to discuss as you are comparing products and prices in the grocery store.

Once again thank you for a great year. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers that have come in to help us each week and thank you to our home room moms for all the plan-

ning they have done. With your help, this has been a great year.

- Mrs. Shumaker
- Mr. Zimmerman

4th Grade News

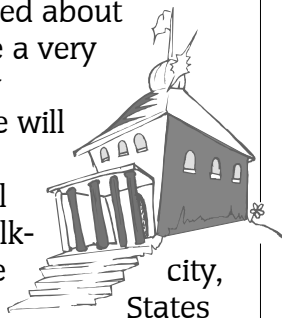
Fourth Grade has had an exciting year. We are sorry to see it winding down! With about 30 days of school left, we want to finish well!

In Math, we are starting our 5th unit. We will be discussing some measurement, and probability topics in this unit. These last couple of months will also give us a chance to review some things we learned earlier this year.

We are less than a month away from our May 18 field trip to Annapolis! We couldn't be more excited about this. We have a very busy itinerary planned. We will visit the State House, as well as enjoy a walking tour of the city, the United States Naval Academy and a cruise aboard the Harbor Queen.

Senator Don Munson will be visiting our school on May 16, and will entertain us at the State House when we arrive. Thanks to the many parents who will be joining us as chaperones!

In other exciting news, Rami Yannes was one of only 3 fourth graders in a pool of 100 state finalists at the National Geography Bee. It was held at Catonsville Community College on April 1st. Although he answered 6 of 8 questions



correctly during a semi-final round, Rami was eliminated. We are extremely proud of Rami for representing the Greenbrier Rocketeers at the state level of the competition. Congratulations to Rami on a job well done!

Enjoy the weather,

- Mrs. Moser
- Mr. Davidsen

5th Grade News

In Language Arts we will be working on our last unit in our reading anthology. We will be reading about how people interact with various animals of the world in 'Animal Encounters'. We will be finishing our novel about the many adventures of *Caddie Woodlawn*.

In math we will be working on our final unit about probability, ration, percentage, and proportions. Our "Measurement Olympics" will also take place this month.

In social studies we will be studying the Revolutionary War period and as a culminating activity we will visit Bedford Willage on May 4th.

In science we will complete our unit study about electricity and finish the year with a unit about the history of flight. We will study how birds to rockets fly. We will complete our study of flight by building rockets and have a rocket launch day to complete our unit.

The fifth grade graduation will take place on Friday, June 3, 2005 at 11:00am. Please plan



to attend your child's graduation from elementary school.

As we enter the final days of the school year, please be sure your child has enough school supplies to finish the year. Also, please check their homework planner daily to check what assignments they have. This time of year has many distractions with sports programs and clubs taking evening time. Sometimes homework takes second seat to these activities. Keep a set time to complete homework on a daily basis.

- The Fifth Grade Team

La Clase de Español

Kindergarten & 1st grade:

Hola,

We are nearing the end of the school year and still have a lot to learn. We are presently focusing on the Spring theme and our last theme

will be about animals of the world. We will also study the last letters of the Spanish alphabet and will be reviewing the whole alphabet.

I am very proud of how the children are taking their second language acquisition and I thank all of you for your support during this year. I hope you can encourage your child to practice Spanish by any means available: through the computer, games in Spanish, or friends and family who speak a little Spanish. It will be more than two months without Spanish classes and any kind of practice during the summer will help to start in August again. My last



words are to wish you a safe, resting and beautiful summer vacation.

Hasta luego,

Señora O.

www.storyplace.org/sp/
storyplace.asp
www.literacycenter.net

Spanish Enrichment 2nd through 5th grade:

Hola,

Our emphasis during these last weeks of school will be spring and animals. We will learn these themes through games, books, and different kinds of exercises. We will also reinforce the alphabet. Please encourage your child to practice the Spanish language in any way possible during the coming months of vacation. I wish each of you a beautiful summer break.

Hasta luego,

Señora O.

XV Feria de Sevilla – presented by Centro de Español de Washington, DC.

If you have a weakness for Spanish dancing, Spanish food, the Spanish language, or Spanish fun, there is a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon coming up on Sunday, May 22nd. Every year in May, Centro Español de Washington, DC holds their Feria de Sevilla and this year it is right in Rockville at Strathmore Hall. It a good way to have a taste of Spanish culture and a unique tradition. This is also the DC area's biggest local Flamenco event. There are casetas (kiosks) representing each region of Spain where you can buy authentic

Spanish food. Some of the local dance schools have casetas where you can dance Sevillanas music. And throughout the day, local dance companies perform Flamenco on the main stage.

Sunday , May 22, 2005

Noon to 5:00 pm

Strathmore

**5301 Tuckerman Lane
(corner of Rockville Pike)**

North Bethesda, MD 20852

News From the Media Center

Thanks for your support!

The Book Fair was an overwhelming success! As a result, we earned about \$1,200 for the Media Center to

purchase materials, and the teachers *thank you* for filling their classroom wish lists. I have already used the profit to purchase some much needed new books on the 50 states.

To those parents who sent money with their children to purchase books and to those families who came to our Family Night to help their children select books – I say *thank you*.

And finally, I would like to extend a **VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU** to Mrs. Fritz for organizing the volunteers, to Mrs. Richards for making the daily deposits, **AND** to all the parents who volunteered their time to help make this event such a successful Book Fair!!



What have we been learning?
Kindergarten

Virginia Lee Burton books

1st grade

Black Eyed Susan Books & Voting

2nd grade

Black Eyed Susan Books & Voting

3rd grade

Celebrating National Library Week

4th grade

Working with Atlases

5th grade

Working on graduation slides

*Please take time to **READ** over the summer!*

- Mrs. Russell

Parent Involvement News

Greenbrier's second Book Swap is scheduled for the week of May 23rd. We will be holding drop-off times on Thursday,

May 12th and Friday, May 13th before school. Students may swap their gently used books for new summer reading material. Credit will be given for each book a student brings to the drop-off. Each child will be able to take home at least one book. Please set aside books for reading levels *Kindergarten to Teen* for this important event. Thank you for your ongoing support of our programs!



- Heather Collins

GUIDANCE **COUNSELOR NEWS**

I am often asked how old children need to be before they can be left home alone. Maryland law addresses this issue in some detail. Here is what you need to know:



According to Maryland State Law (Family Law Article 5-801), children under the age of 8 must be supervised at all times. A child age 8 through 12 may be left alone for brief periods with a support system of phone numbers, safety and emergency information, but may NOT be left alone to care for children under age 8. A child must be at least 13 years old to baby-sit other children including siblings.

For children ages 8 and older, parents still need to determine whether they are ready to stay home alone.

Here are the things a child should know before he/she is left alone:

- His or her full name, complete address, directions to the home and phone number
- How to lock and unlock the door to the home
- What to do and who to call in case of any emergency
- How to reach the parent(s) at work.
- The name and phone number of a back-up person to contact if the parent(s) are not available
- What to do or say if ap-

- proached by a stranger
- What to do if the electricity goes off
- Rules for outside play
- Rules for visiting friends or having friends visit.

Parents may be investigated for neglect if:

- They leave a child alone under the age of 8
- They leave any child alone for long periods of time
- They leave a child alone who is not capable of handling the responsibilities, or becomes frightened of the situation.

According to the law: *A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$500 or imprisonment not exceeding 30 days, or both.*

Noteworthy News **Yearbook News**

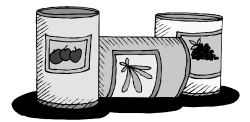
If you missed ordering your yearbook earlier this year, you have one last chance to get it before the final order is submitted!

Order forms are in the PTA mailbox in the school lobby and the cost is \$13.00. If you need help finding a form, please contact the school secretary.

As always, we can still use some good, clear pictures of students doing a variety of activities. If you have any recent events or sports photos, please feel free to send them in too! Our deadline for receiving photos is May 9th. After that, we will use the pictures we have available! If

you are willing to share with us, please send them in to school with your child as soon as possible. If we don't use your pictures, we will return them to you (please write your child's name on the back)! If we use your picture, we may cut or crop it, so please let us know if you still want it back anyway!

Thank you for supporting this memory book for our students!



Did you know:

That Greenbrier School was honored as the elementary school which gave the most food to the Salvation Army Food Drive this school year!



Citizens Advisory Committee

The CAC still needs a Chairperson for the 2005-2006 school year. If you are interested or would just like more information, please contact Tracy Grove at (301) 824-6139.

